

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the outstanding Office Action dated January 30, 2004. Claims 32-45 are currently pending, with claim 32 being independent. Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice and/or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 33-45 have been amended. Each of the points raised in the outstanding Action are addressed below.

*Allowable Claims*

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 32 is allowable. Accordingly, this claim remains unchanged in the present response.

*Prior Art Rejections*

All claims, save for claim 32, have been rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of various prior art. Applicant has canceled claim 31, and amended the remainder of the claims to depend on claim 32. Since the remaining pending dependent claims all now depend solely from claim 32, indicated as allowed, the remaining claims are now patentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

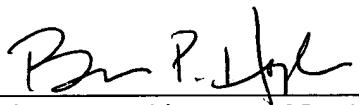
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the issues raised in the outstanding Action have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No fee is currently due for the present response, save for the fee for extending the time to respond to the Action. However, in the event that it is determined that additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. **50-0311**, reference No. 20264-502, Customer No. **35437**.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 935-3000. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 29, 2004

  
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